

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 12, and add new claims 15-16 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a data communication service, which connects a user computer to an Internet service provider via an access server and a network, said method comprises:
 - a step of connecting the network to the Internet service provider via a first router and to the access server via a second router respectively;
 - a step of said user computer communicating with said access server based on a point-to-point protocol;
 - a step of said access server receiving a user ID and a password from said user computer based on an authentication protocol;
 - a step of said access server sending said user ID and said password to said network;
 - a step of said network sending a first network address assigned to said user computer from said Internet service provider to said access server after authenticating a respective user by using said user ID and said password;
 - a step of said access server sending ~~said first~~ a second network address to said user computer based on a control protocol;
 - a step of said network translating ~~[[a]]~~ said second network address sent from said user computer to said first network address; and
 - a step of establishing communication between said user computer and said Internet service provider.
2. (Previously Presented) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a step of said network assigning said second network address to said user computer;
 - a step of said network said user ID and said second network address so that said user ID and said second network address are related to each other;
 - a step of said network issuing a user authentication request to said Internet service provider; and
 - a step of said network holding said first network address.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1, wherein said network holds said user ID, said first network address, and said second network address so that they are related to one another.
4. (Previously Presented) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1, wherein said second network address is an address described in a network address field in a communication packet.
5. (Previously Presented) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1, wherein said communication between said user computer and said Internet service provider is established based on said first network address while said communication between said user computer and said access server is established based on said second network address.
6. (Currently Amended) An address translation apparatus connected via a first router to an access server, which is connected to plural user computers, and via a second router to a network which is connected to plural Internet service providers (ISPs), comprising:
- an authenticating part which authenticates a user by using a private network user ID and a private network password received from said access server to retrieve and send a corresponding ISP user ID and a corresponding ISP password to an ISP contracted to provide internet services to the user so as to authenticate the user by the ISP, and [[which]] said authenticating part sends a private network address assigned to said user to said access server by using a point-to-point protocol;
 - a translating part which translates the private network address into a public IP network address assigned to said user computer by one of the Internet service providers; and
 - an output part which outputs said public IP network address to said network.
- 7-10. (Cancelled).
11. (Previously Presented) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1, wherein said point-to-point protocol is LCP, said authentication protocol is CHAP, and said control protocol is IPCP.

12. (Currently Amended) The address translation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said ~~address translation apparatus~~ translating part holds said private network user ID, said ~~[[first]]~~ private network address, and said ~~second~~ public IP network address.
13. (Previously Presented) The address translation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said private IP network address is used to access said one of the Internet service providers.
14. (Previously Presented) The address translation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said public IP network address is used to access a server in said network.
15. (New) The address translation apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the ISP is disconnected automatically after communication between the ISP and the user stops for a predetermined time period.
16. (New) The method for providing a data communication service according to claim 1, further comprising: disconnecting the Internet service provider automatically after communication between the Internet service provider and the user computer stops for a predetermined time period.